

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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UP-TOWN OFFICE, BROAD-STREET PHARMACY, 519 EAST BROAD STREET.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1898.

GOVERNOR TYLER'S SUGGESTION.

In a special message Governor Tyler sent to the General Assembly Wednesday, and which was printed in our issue of yesterday, he renews and emphasizes the suggestion made in his inaugural address, that the Legislature appoint a commission to take into consideration the whole subject of constitutional reform, and to report recommendations to the next Legislature or a called session of the present body, as may be deemed most desirable.

The views of the Governor regarding this matter are well worthy of the careful consideration of our law-makers. The General Assembly is inhibited by the organic law from retrenching through constitutional amendments. The Legislature has power to formulate such amendments along this or any other line it may deem expedient, and submit them to the people for adoption or rejection. But, should the body, as now appears probable, owing to the short time that will elapse before the close of the session, fail to exercise that power, it would indicate the safest, and the wisest, and the most economical, and the most practical way, to supplement such retrenchment, as it is the constitutional province of the Legislature to make.

As the Governor well says, the plan is in every way preferable to that of calling a constitutional convention, which course the people have recently declared against. But just here we must throw out a caution signal. The adoption of the plan would not, in the eyes of the public, relieve the Legislature in the slightest of the responsibility that rests upon it to retrench by enactment to the limit of its power, as far as practicable. It would not do away with the necessity of beginning now to save in every possible direction. It would not be accepted as an excuse for the Legislature's ignoring the mandate of the voters as expressed at the polls last fall. It would not save the body from popular condemnation, should an adjournment take place without a good showing to the credit of the cutting-down programme. It could not be used as an unloading device for carrying on the work of retrenchment from the point at which the Constitution turns its back on the authority of the Legislature in the premises. It cannot be used as a substitute for the policy the Legislature is expected to carry out. This the Legislature and all interests that would hamper the work its members were elected chiefly to accomplish would do well to bear in mind.

ANOTHER ASPIRANT.

The latest aspirant for fame in the field of Arctic exploration is Captain J. E. Bernier, of Quebec, Canada. Captain Bernier has been studying the problem of reaching the North Pole for the last twenty years, and recently explained his scheme for solving it before the Quebec Geographical Society. He is satisfied, from the finding of Jeannette wreckage on the eastern shore of Greenland, and from the experience of Nansen, that there is a decided polar current running from the mouth of the Lena River, Siberia, towards Greenland, and that this current makes close to the pole, if not across it. He calculates that the drift of this current is at the rate of one and one-quarter miles per day, and that by starting out on an ice-flow from the neighborhood of the mouth of the Lena, he would travel towards the goal at the rate of 2 miles a day, or 720 miles a year. Further, as the ice would be moving in the same direction, and would cover 400 miles a year, he would reach the pole at the rate of 1,100 miles a year.

Captain Bernier proposes that his equipment shall consist of an aluminum and wooden boat, built in sections, fifty days, fifty men, and a number of Eskimauk aids. He anticipates meeting any comparatively smooth ice, and designs using Alpine guide gratings for surmounting hummocks, and shears and wires for transporting provisions over difficult places. The Fram drifted to nearly 50 degrees, north latitude, and Nansen made 50 degrees, 14 minutes.

It is understood that Captain Bernier's plan contemplates a dash for the pole in the event of the current's not drifting across it. If his proposed expedition materializes, there will soon be three expeditions racing for the prize, and

carrying the colors of the United States, England, and Canada, respectively.

THE PENITENTIARY BILL.

Yesterday the Senate passed the bill for the enlargement of the penitentiary, so amending it as to reduce the appropriation from \$120,000 to \$100,000, and provide that the work of building be conducted under the supervision of a commission, consisting of the Governor, the two auditors, the Treasurer, and the Superintendent of the Prison, in lieu of the Penitentiary Board.

Seeing that the cost of the work is to come out of the future profits of the penitentiary, it is to be regretted that the Senate could not find a way to grant the amount originally asked for by the board. However, by economical cutting of the cost according to the cloth, represented in the \$100,000, much can be done to remedy the great evil existing at the institution, and relieve Virginia of the reproach that evil has put upon her.

As to the other amendment, we feel authorized to state that the members of the board accept it most cheerfully.

Considering the other and exacting duties that devolve upon these gentlemen in connection with the government of the institution, they would rather than not be exempted from the task and responsibility of superintending the enlargement.

At the same time, there is no responsibility they would not willingly assume, and no labor they would not gladly undertake in order to the consummation of the necessary improvements—improvements that several successive Legislatures have been urged to authorize, that have been endorsed by prominent gatherings of ministers of the Gospel, and by students of sanitation, and that cry aloud in the name of humanity.

The measure will now come up before the House, and we cannot think that that body will fail to concur in the action of the Senate. Should the Legislature adjourn without having made adequate provision for lessening the congestion now existing at the penitentiary, and which must increase daily until such provision shall have been made, horrors will pile upon horrors in the prison until its condition will become a burning shame to the Commonwealth. Indeed, its condition—and from no fault of the management—will be little short of that now.

We have used strong language in dealing with this subject, but that it is not too strong—that it is fully justified—must be admitted by any one who may have visited the penitentiary after the prisoners have been locked up for the night.

The destruction of the Maine, which cost over \$2,500,000, has already started a discussion of the question whether it is wise to put that much money in one ship. The Baltimore Sun, one of the papers taking part in the discussion, notes that the largest ship may be sunk by one torpedo, such as a small torpedo-boat or "destroyer" may eject from her "tubes," and asks if we are not to take the offensive at sea, why should we build vessels of great size and cost? Smaller vessels, continues the Sun, costing not over \$500,000, would be ample for harbor defence. The torpedo-boat is cheap and efficient for local defence. The torpedo-boat destroyer, which is somewhat larger, is vastly more efficient. Admiral Coubert, of the British navy, is quoted as declaring that the latter is the naval vessel of the future, and will drive the huge battleships and cruisers from the seas. He makes the point that over twenty such boats may be built for the money that one battleship costs, and economy and good sense call for the abandonment of large battleships and cruisers. It is unwise, he contends, to put all one's eggs in one basket.

Yes, but are not the jingoes doing everything in their power to bring about conditions that will force us to take the offensive?

The Boston Herald, in discussing the impartial school history question, says that the North holds, and the final verdict of history will be, that the South would never have carried her assertion of State rights into war, had it not been for fears of the safety of her slave institutions.

The final verdict of history will be nothing of the kind, if that verdict shall be based on the facts. However, in this connection, the Herald shows a recognition of the untenability of the North's position that the Southern States had no right to secede, for it also says that it "would be easy to agree upon the doctrine of State rights upon which the South acted in its claims for the right of secession, but when it came to the agency of slavery in bringing on the assertion of this right, there would be a stumbling-block." Further, this declaration involves an admission that the North did not fight to preserve the Union, but in order to free the slaves. Really, it would seem that there is a chance of the truth of history's coming out sooner than we had expected.

The bill which passed the House of Representatives on Tuesday with reference to loans by national banks to their own officers, employees, or directors has the approval of the late Controller of the Currency, and is, says the New York Times, by no means drastic. It requires that such loans shall be made only on formal request to the board of directors, and with the approval of the majority of that board or the executive committee. The real mischief heretofore done, adds our contemporary, has been made possible by systematic concealment of such loans. The Committee on Banking and Currency declared in their report that there exists no case in which the majority of the board of directors have intentionally permitted any loans to or use of the moneys of a bank by its directors or officers in amounts sufficient to render the bank insolvent.

Senator Morrill hit the nail on the head when he said that the annexation of Hawaii would be against the interest and contrary to the traditions of this country. The "Father" of our "upper house" spoke with the wisdom that comes with years. We trust the counsel to which he lent the aid of his opinion will prevail.

Senior De Lome seems to be a better talker than writer. He said very nice things about this country just before sailing from New York. It is a pity, for his own sake, that his diplomacy escaped him when he took his pen in hand to express himself to Canalejas.

Colonel Chandler, of Georgia, who is sometimes called "the one-eyed plowboy of Pigeon's Roost," has an eye single now to securing the governorship of Georgia, and this being so, he is not unlikely to "get there."

All sorts of rumors of impending war with Spain were about yesterday, but they were wild rumors only. The coun-

try cannot do better than suspend judgment in the matter of the cause of the disaster at Havana until a full investigation of the catastrophe can be had, as Captain Sigbee, in the first instance, suggested should be done. The sensationalists yesterday had General Lee again assassinated, the cable to Havana cut, the cruiser New York ordered to the Cuban capital, etc., etc. Fortunately, no harm was done by the fakes, but the fact that they were so numerous and so wide of the truth suggests once more that the public should discriminate between genuine news and news that is made to order.

All honor to the men who perished at their post of duty on the Maine! They gave their lives as truly in their country's cause, and they are as truly heroes, as though they had died in the shock of battle. All honor to their memory!

Mayor Malster, of Baltimore, is again a benedict, having taken to himself a bride on Wednesday, and, as it is the third time with him, it proves that marriage is not a failure in his opinion.

The first corn convention ever held in the United States met Wednesday in Chicago. It isn't the first corned convention, though.

Young Letter is raising wheat, it seems, though he isn't any farmer.

An Open Letter.

To the Members of the General Assembly of Virginia:

Please allow a suggestion in connection with retrenchment, which I am satisfied will save a large amount to the public treasury annually.

There is no necessity for the summoning of more than twelve jurors—"remotes," &c.—in felony cases. About nine times in ten, in my experience, twelve suffice. Let the Judge of the court summon, as he may think best, men free from objection; and at the suggestion of counsel, a larger number may be had.

I never summon jurors, unless the case is very important, until we find out that costs in this regard are being allowed the procuring of a jury at any time.

I have noticed particularly to see how many, and in the past two years only, I have expressed an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused. Then, cui bono do we summon sixteen, with added mileage and service?

Limit the time in which prisoners can be confined in jail for minor offences. It looks as if the matter of feeding prisoners in jail is very much ignored by some of the justices. And the limit ought to be lower.

I am emboldened to make these suggestions by the fact that others made by me some years ago in connection with the same and grand jury systems were adopted by the Senate Committee for courts of justice and enacted into law.

In these things, little by little, the crime costs can be reduced to a minimum.

I cannot be accused of attacks on you and changes in the judiciary system. You have as good a judiciary system as any will ever get. Senator Daniel, in an address delivered in Manchester last fall, said that we had in force the cheapest and best judicial system that could be devised, and (I quote from memory) that many of the county judges would grace the Supreme Court.

The Senate plan to abolish, by constitutional amendment, the circuit and county courts, and substitute therefor twenty-five or thirty district courts of chancery, common law, and criminal jurisdiction, with appeal directly to the Supreme Court, would certainly necessitate the making of another code of appeals.

It would cost the State to carry the salaries of this new array of judges about \$50,000 annually, and the work would not be as well done, to say nothing of the added costs of necessary delay in the trial of cases.

Under the present system we have divided labor. The County Judge is, so to speak, on the spot, to hear application for bail when a prisoner ought not to be in jail at public expense.

If a case is not ready for trial he will continue it to another day in the term, while the District Judge would have to be moving on.

Besides, the County Judge has a great many things to do which he cannot do at a distance could do so well. Look at 1,800 convicts in the penitentiary, and see how well and how promptly the work of these judges has been accomplished. Why, appeals from their rulings are hardly ever taken.

Then let the courts alone. Give the judges discretion in the mode of procuring jurors, and stop the long-term confinements in jail for misdemeanors.

We have an attorney system.

ISAAC H. CHRISTIAN, Charles City County, February 17, 1898.

Case of Small-Pox in Clintwood.

DWALE, DICKENSON COUNTY, VA., February 17.—(Special).—Your correspondent learns that there is a case of small-pox in the town of Clintwood, three miles from here. The victim is Cleo Greer, a young man of that place who had been out in the infected district in Wise county. There seems to be various opinions as to whether the disease is actually small-pox or not. Excitement ran high at Clintwood for awhile, but it has now almost subsided.

Mrs. Noah Yates, wife of a prominent farmer of the "Ridge," seriously ill, and her recovery is very doubtful.

We are having fine weather for farm work now, and our farmers are taking advantage of it.

A Tumor Formed

Finally It Broke Inwardly and Discharged

Trouble Began With Dyspepsia and Impure Blood

Thorough Course of Hood's Sarsaparilla Completely Cures.

There is danger in impure blood. Disease and suffering are surely coming to those who neglect this threatening symptom. Read this:

"Gilliam, Missouri.

"Gentlemen:—My troubles began with nervous headaches, which would last me for two or three days. The doctors pronounced my trouble dyspepsia, but they could not do anything for me, and advised a change of location. At the age of 55 a tumor formed on my spine, which

but did not rise or discharge. The doctor thought best to cut it out, but I objected. It finally broke and discharged a great deal. The doctors said they could do nothing for it. Then the tumor began to rise inwardly and discharge. I read much about cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla and thought I would try it. Before I had finished taking one bottle I was much relieved. I continued the use of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and after taking 12 bottles I was entirely cured. I am now well, have a good appetite and feel that I owe my life to Hood's Sarsaparilla." W. D. FORD.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. 41¢; six for \$5.

Hood's Pills

are sold harmoniously with Hood's Sarsaparilla. 25¢.

TUCKER MEMORIAL HALL.

Another Donation for It—The News from Lexington.

LEXINGTON, VA., February 17.—(Special).—The latest contribution to be received for the John Randolph Tucker memorial hall, to be erected at the Washington and Lee University, comes from the Kendall Green Deaf-Mute College, Washington, D. C., and is for \$20. Mr. Tucker was for some time a trustee of that institution.

President William L. Wilson, of the Washington and Lee University, on Wednesday morning at the regular weekly gathering of the students gave a short sketch of the "History of the Post-Office Department of the United States." He pointed especially to the immense growth of the post-office system, and to the largest business operation in the world; that last year the expenditures were over \$97,000,000; that it was possible for 5 cents to send a letter anywhere in the world; that the globe, and the material arrangements had been made for facilitating such service.

The Board of Supervisors of Rockbridge county have, by a unanimous vote, adopted a resolution to purchase a pair of horses and mules. Very little opposition was made in regard to the adoption of the law, which will go into effect August 15, 1898.

The State Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association, which meets in Lynchburg on the 17th to the 24th, inclusive, will have the following representatives from Washington and Lee University: Granville Campbell, Preston Allen, R. W. C. White, W. C. McClung, W. E. Davis, J. Randolph Shields, and Robert Glasgow.

Messrs. Harry W. Platt, Hugh M. McIlhenny, and Charles F. Myers, of Washington and Lee University, have been elected delegates to the Students' National Volunteer Movement of Foreign Missions, which meets in Cleveland, O. on the 23d, 24th, and 25th.

ABOUT THE PEOPLE.

Colonel William T. Poague and Colonel Edward W. Nichols are in Richmond, looking after the interests of the Virginia Military Institute before the legislative Finance Committee.

Rev. Henry A. White, D. D., of the Washington and Lee University, has declined the Chair of Ecclesiastical History offered him in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, at Columbia, S. C.

The library walls of the Washington and Lee University are being adorned with portraits of distinguished alumni, which have been contributed by them or by their friends. Among the pictures recently received are those of the late Judge Edward C. Burks, of the Virginia Court of Appeals; the late Major Thomas J. Kirkpatrick, of Lynchburg, and Governor L. C. Bowers, of Winchester.

President William L. Wilson and Dr. Thornton Whaling are in Lynchburg, in attendance upon the meeting of the State Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Ernest H. Kruttschnitt, of New Orleans, a distinguished alumnus of the Washington and Lee University, was chosen president of the Louisiana Constitutional Convention.

OFFICERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

ROANOKE, VA., February 17.—(Special).—T. G. McFall, late Superintendent of the Almshouse, and father of City Auditor James McFall, died this morning at 10 o'clock, after a lingering illness of three weeks with pneumonia.

She Was Costly.

(New York Herald.)

"The man I refused," she said softly, "is now rich, while the man I accepted is poor."

"Of course," replied her dearest friend, "it would be just the same if she had married the other."

The young matron could readily see that this was a reflection upon her, but it was just what she was able to see in just what way, and even then she wasn't sure of it.

Under Consideration.

(Leslie's Weekly.)

Mrs. Newlwyed: Before we were married you said that my slightest wish should be your law.

Mr. Newlwyed: Exactly, my love; but you have so many vigorous and undeveloped wishes that I am as yet unable to decide as to which is the slightest.

Easy for Her.

(New York Herald.)

"Do you think a woman could stand the wear and tear of being President of the United States?"

"Of course; if she had all she wanted to wear she wouldn't care anything about the tear."

Easy Distinction.

(Detroit Journal.)

"With all the men in evening dress, how are you going to tell the guests from the servants?"

"Well, the guests are polite to the hosts."

Discouraged.

(Chicago Record.)

"We gave up having a coat of arms."

"Why?"

"My husband said my griffin wouldn't look well dragging his ancestral milk-wagon."

More Pressing Need.

(Washington Star.)

"Yes," said the explorer, "I fully intended to reach the pole. But I didn't."

"It often happens," said the acquaintance, "that we are glad to get less than we originally started after."

"That's true. In the course of a few months we have had to get less than we saw any pole or not. We would have been perfectly content with a grub-stake."

A Shelter and You.

(Atlanta Constitution.)

It may be prosperity's looking, and clouds are falling in the blue. But whatever I miss There are children to kiss And a shelter—thank Heaven—and you!

It may be the rainbow has faded, and the flowers are faint for the dew, But sweet is the thought of a home, There are lips for my kiss, And a shelter—thank Heaven—and you!

It may be the music is dying, and the rose weeps in the garden, But to my heart Nothing sweet can impart As the kisses of the children—and you!

CASTORIA.

The famous sign of Castoria is on every wrapper.

(my 25-W, F. & Su t r)

HORSE CLIPPING.

HORSE CLIPPING—HORSES CLIPPED AND CLEANED by the LEONARD HORSE CLIPPER are clipped closer and smoother than any other clipper used in this country. Leave orders at stable, 310 North Ninth, or 908 East Main street. N. LEONARD, Jr. 18-F&S24

PROPOSALS.

Office Superintendent of Public Charities, Richmond, Va., February 15, 1898.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED at this office (Room 5, City Hall), until 12 o'clock, Monday, February 22, 1898, for furnishing the City Almshouse with supplies for the quarter ending May 31, 1898. The supplies to be furnished are: BACON, FLOUR, COFFEE, SUGAR, RICE, LARD (pure), SOAP, HERRING, SALT, MOLASSES, BUTTER, POTATOES, OAT MEAL, CORN, STRAW, DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, HATS, SHOES, FURNITURE, and all other articles delivered at the almshouse at such times and in such quantities as the Superintendent may direct.

The committee for the Relief of the Poor reserves the right to reject any or all proposals offered, and of giving the contract for the article required to the lowest responsible bidder.

Forms of proposals can be obtained at the almshouse or at this office.

By order of the BOARD OF SUPERINTENDENTS.

fe 15-W, Th, F&Su Superintendent.

have arrived recently, among them many of the popular up-to-date novels.

A large union revival meeting was begun at the Methodist church Monday night, Rev. Mr. Ware conducting the services. Rev. George W. Wiley, the celebrated evangelist, was to have been here to open the meeting, but was detained in Lynchburg. He arrived this afternoon, and will conduct the services to-night, and every morning and night to the end of the week. Rev. Mr. Ware will also be assisted by Rev. Mr. Hill, from Scottsville, during the latter part of the week. The services will be continued next week (Deo volente).

Miss Nellie Nash is away on a visit to her sister, Mrs. Dr. Cabell, at Norwood.

Miss Lilla Hancock, who has been on an extended trip to Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other points, has returned.

Mr. Nolting and his mother, Mrs. E. O. Nolting, who have been spending several days at their summer home, have returned to Richmond.

Mr. Rolfe Turner has gone to Farmville for the purpose of selling his crop of tobacco.

Mr. Hancock is still very ill, and there has been no improvement in his condition during the last twenty-four hours.

A cold wave swooped down upon us last night, accompanied by a gale of almost hurricane force. The roof of the hay-house on General T. M. Logan's farm was blown off, and many fences and trees were leveled to the ground.

The James river is almost as low as it was during the drought of last summer, and great difficulty is experienced in crossing in the ferry-boat with a heavy load.

MR. PHILIPS WEDS MISS KNIGHT.

A Pretty Marriage—A Slight Fire—Scene in Scottsville.

SCOTTSVILLE, VA., February 17.—(Special).—One of the prettiest weddings of the season which has occurred in this neighborhood took place at the beautiful little "Mt. Airy" church, when Mr. John B. Phillips and Miss Rosa Lee Knight were united in marriage, Rev. L. T. Hill, of the Methodist church, performing the ceremony. The church was most exquisitely decorated for the occasion, the marriage bell of evergreens being most artistic. Our postmaster, Mr. S. R. Gault, acted as best man. The house was crowded to its utmost capacity.

There was an alarm of fire in our town on Sunday, and, as a matter of course, everybody was much excited, but it turned out to be only the burning out of the kitchen chimney at the residence of General J. C. Hill. No trouble whatever was done, as his houses are covered with slate.

Mr. Frank T. Hill is still improving.

Mr. R. M. Cleveland, one of our oldest and most highly respected citizens, is critically ill at his home near town.

Miss Fannie Strader died at her home, near Carter's Bridge, this morning of consumption.

Mr. Robert Durrett, of Esomont, is here to-day.

News was received here to-day, that Major J. S. Bowyer and Mr. Henry Sadler, of Wilmington, are both quite ill.

Death of T. G. McFall.

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